

# Aristotle

*Aristotle is a white cat who lives with his owner, Bella Donna, in a small cottage in a wood. Whenever Aristotle gets into trouble, Bella Donna rushes to help. In fact, it is quite a mystery just how she can arrive on the scene as quickly as she does. Perhaps you can spot how she does it ...*

Aristotle had grown used to the fact that Bella was mostly around the place by day and that usually she went out at night, leaving him snoozing by the kitchen fire. Being a sharp-eyed animal, he also noticed that she never went out into the darkness without her broomstick, though he did not know why.

By day, Bella Donna was a busy person, so that, try as she would, there were times when the eye she kept on Aristotle was not as close as it should have been. For example, she often seemed to be heating something – Aristotle did not know what – in a large black cauldron that hung suspended over the kitchen fire. Whatever was in this cauldron needed a lot of stirring, and one day, while Bella was busy at this, Aristotle slipped out for a walk.



For some time he had been curious — as all cats are — about a lot of loud noises that came, now and again, from one side of the wood. They were clanking noises and puffing noises and sometimes a shrill whistle, and they got louder and louder as whatever-it-was drew nearer, and then quieter and quieter as whatever-it-was went away.

On this particular day, what with the crackling of the fire and the bubbling of the liquid in the cauldron, Bella did not hear the clanking and the puffing, but the whistle, when it came, was very loud and very shrill. She looked quickly round the kitchen for Aristotle but there was no sign of him.

Had anyone been watching, they would have been amazed at how swiftly Bella now acted. First she dropped her ladle into the cauldron. Then she lifted the cauldron off the fire. Then she picked up her broomstick from the corner and dashed out.

Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

**1** Where does Aristotle sleep?

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**2** What does Bella Donna always take with her when she goes out? Tick **one**.

a cauldron       her coat       her broomstick

**3** What colour is the cauldron that hung over the kitchen fire?

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**4** What do you think a cauldron is? Tick **one**.

a big pot       a big basket       a big swing

**5** What do you think Bella Donna was heating in the cauldron over the kitchen fire?

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**6** What do you think was making the noises in the wood? Tick **one**.

a car       a train       a digger

Explain your answer.

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**7** Which of these phrases do you think describes a *shrill whistle*? Tick **one**.

a high-pitched sound       a loud shout       a puffing noise

**8** “*Had anyone been watching, they would have been amazed at how **swiftly** Bella now acted.*”

Underline the word that links *swiftly* to its meaning.

slowly                      quickly                      quietly                      carefully                      crossly

**9** “*Then she picked up her broomstick from the corner and dashed out.*”

Write down a phrase that you think has a similar meaning to *dashed out*.

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**10** How would you describe Aristotle? Explain your answer.

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